

In re: Appln No. 10/603,332
Amendment dated September 19, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 21, 2006

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (canceled)
20. (canceled)
21. (canceled)
22. (canceled)
23. (canceled)
24. (canceled)
25. (canceled)
26. (canceled)
27. (canceled)

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28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) A metal powder composition wherein said powder particle size is less than 500 25 nanometers and smaller than powder precursor ~~having enhanced thermal conductivity and reduced energy consumption~~ wherein said metal powder is undergoes a chemical reduction reaction reduced from a coated powder precursor in at least one fluid selected from the group consisting of solvents, monomers, interpolymers, polymers, phase change material, heat transfer fluid, swellable polymers, swellable polysaccharides, electrolyte, spent etchant, ionic surfactants, ionic liquids, supercritical liquids or combinations thereof wherein said coated powder precursor has an average particle less than 2 microns.

32. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the coated powder precursor comprises a coating ~~in stoichiometric excess and has~~ having at least one function selected from the group consisting of composition stabilization, corrosion resistance dispersant, or combinations thereof.

33. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 32, wherein the coated powder precursor is prepared by one of:

- a. complexing a coating compound with powder precursor particles;
- b. adsorbing a coating compound on surfaces of the powder precursor particles; or
- c. organometallic chemistry.

34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the coated powder precursor is reduced by one method selected from the group consisting of:

- a. microemulsions and chemical reduction of pre-complexed metal salts;
- b. microemulsions and reduction of pre-complexed metal salts using sonochemistry;
- c. sonochemistry using high or ultrahigh frequency acoustic wave generation of cavitation in reaction vessel for reduction of pre-complexed metal salts;

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- d. sonochemistry using high or ultrahigh frequency acoustic wave generation of cavitation onto plating surface through plating by electroless deposition of pre-complexed metal salts;
- e. sonochemistry using high or ultrahigh frequency acoustic wave generation of cavitation onto plating surface through plating deposition by electrolysis of pre-complexed metal salts;
- f. sonochemistry using high or ultrahigh frequency acoustic wave generation of cavitation onto plating surface through plating deposition by electrolysis of pre-complexed metal salts using high frequency electrical power source;
- g. submicron atomization of pre-complexed metal salts in liquid carrier with in situ chemical reduction;
- h. submicron atomization of pre-complexed metal salts in liquid carrier with in situ electrochemical reduction;
- i. submicron atomization of pre-complexed metal salts in liquid carrier within vessel with voltage potential between atomizer and cathode;
- j. plasma processing of powder precursor with quenching in liquid carrier having pre-solubilized complexing coating compound;
- k. combustion synthesis processing of powder precursor with quenching in liquid carrier having pre-solubilized complexing coating compound;
- l. pre-complexed powder precursor dissolved in supercritical fluid with in situ chemical reduction;
- m. pre-complexed powder precursor dissolved in supercritical fluid with in situ electrochemical reduction;
- n. electrolysis of pre-complexed metal salts using high frequency electrical power source on anode and cathode;
- o. electrolysis of pre-complexed metal salts using electrically conductive material selected from group of electrolyte or conductive polymer;
- p. high pressure hydrogen chemical reduction reaction of powder precursor in liquid carrier having pre-solubilized complexing coating compound;

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- q. high pressure hydrogen chemical reduction reaction of powder precursor in liquid carrier having pre-solubilized complexing coating compound in combination with high or ultrahigh frequency acoustic wave generation of cavitation in reaction vessel;
 - r. high pressure hydrogen chemical reduction reaction of powder precursor in liquid carrier having pre-solubilized complexing coating compound in combination with high or ultrahigh frequency electromagnetic force generation in reaction vessel;
 - s. cryogenic embrittlement in combination with processes selected from the group of high pressure hydrogen embrittlement, or high | ultrahigh frequency acoustic wave generation of cavitation in reaction vessel; or
 - t. electrodialysis of pre-complexed metal salts in combination with processes selected from the group of high pressure hydrogen embrittlement, or high | ultrahigh frequency acoustic wave generation of cavitation on cathode.
36. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the powder is selected from the group of metals consisting of copper, titanium, nickel, beryllium, iron, silver, gold, alloys thereof, blends thereof, and compounds thereof.
37. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, whereby the fluid is further comprised of powders selected from the group of carbons consisting of graphite, carbon nanotubes, diamond, fullerene carbons of the general formula C_{sub.2}.sub.n where n is an integer of at least 30, and blends thereof.
38. (canceled)
39. (canceled)
40. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of conjugated polymers, crystalline polymers, amorphous polymers, epoxies, resins, acrylics, polycarbonates, polyphenylene ethers, polyimides, polyesters, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS); polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyphenylene oxide, polyphenylene sulphide, polyetherimide, polyetheretherketone, polyether ketone, polyimides, polyarylates, styrene, poly(tetramethylene oxide), poly(ethylene oxide), poly(butadiene), poly(isoprene), poly(hydrogenated butadiene), poly(hydrogenated isoprene), liquid crystal polymers,

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polycarbonate, polyamide-imide, copolyimides precursors, reinforced polyimide composites and laminates made from said polyimides, polyphenylated polynuclear aromatic diamines, fluorocarbon polymers, polyetherester elastomers, neoprene, polyurea, polyanhydride, chlorosulphonated polyethylene, ethylene/propylene/diene (EPDM) elastomers, polyvinyl chloride, polycylylene terephthalate, polyvinylchloride, ABS, polystyrene, polymethylmethacrylate, polyurethane, polyacrylate, polymethacrylate, and polysiloxane, aromatic copolyimide, polyalipholefins, polythiophene, polyaniline, polypyrrrole, polyacetylene, polyisocyanurates, and derivatives thereof, vinyl monomers, styrene, vinyl pyridines, N-vinyl pyrrolidone, vinyl acetate, acrylonitrile, methyl vinyl ketone, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate; polyols, ethylene glycol, 1,6-hexane diol, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarbinol, polyamines, 1,6-hexamidine, 4,4'-methylenebis (N-methylaniline), polycarboxylic acids, adipic acid, phthalic acid, epoxides, ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, and cyclohexene oxide, polyalkylene glycols, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, vinyl polymers, polystyrene, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylpyridine, polymethyl methacrylate, organic liquid-soluble polysaccharides, functionalized polysaccharides, cellulose acetate, and crosslinked swellable polysaccharides.

41. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein at least one phase change medium is selected from the group consisting of salt-hydrates, organic eutectics, clathrate-hydrates, paraffins, hydrocarbons, Fischer-Tropsch hard waxes, inorganic eutectic mixtures, acetamide, methyl fumarate, myristic acid, Glauber's salt, paraffin wax, fatty acids, methyl-esters, methyl palmitate, methyl stearate, mixtures of short-chain acids, capric and lauric acid, coconut fatty acids, propane and methane.
42. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the coated powder precursor has at least one coating selected from the group consisting of azoles, ~~benzotriazole, tetraazoles, halogen-resistant azoles~~, pentane-soluble amide, pyridine-based compound, pentane-soluble dispersant, an inorganic corrosion inhibitor compound, substituted derivatives thereof, or combinations thereof.

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43. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 42, wherein the azole is selected from the group consisting of aromatic azoles, diazoles, halogen resistant azoles, triazoles, tetrazoles, benzotriazole, tolyltriazole, 2,5-(aminopentyl) benzimidazole, alkoxybenzotriazole, imidazoles including oleyl imidazoline, thiazoles including mercaptobenzothiazole, 1-phenyl-5-mercaptopetetrazole, thiodiazoles, halogen-resistant azoles, 5,6-dimethyl-benzotriazole; 5,6-diphenylbenzotriazole; 5-benzoyl-benzotriazole; 5-benzyl-benzotriazole and 5-phenyl-benzotriazole, a combination of alkoxybenzotriazole, mercaptobenzothiazole, tolyltriazole, benzotriazole, a substituted benzotriazole, and/or 1-phenyl-5-mercaptopetetrazole, a mixture of a pentane-soluble imidazoline, or combinations thereof.
44. (canceled)
45. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the coated powder precursor comprises at least one powder selected from the group consisting of aluminum and aluminum alloys having a coating comprising a cerium compound.
46. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the coated powder precursor comprises at least one powder selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, iron, steel and alloys thereof having at least one coating selected from the group consisting of mercapto-substituted thiodiazoles, amino-substituted thiodiazoles, and mercapto-substituted triazole, amino-substituted triazoles, oleyl imidazoline, triethanolamine, monoethanolamine, or combinations thereof.
47. (currently amended) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the coated powder precursor is in sufficient thickness to form at least a molecular monolayer coating.
48. (previously presented) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the reduced metal powder is further processed by removal of reduction reaction medium, and subsequent further comprised of monomers, interpolymers, polymers, phase change material, heat transfer fluid, swellable polymers, swellable polysaccharides, electrolyte, spent etchant, ionic surfactants, ionic liquids, supercritical liquids or combinations thereof.
49. (currently amended) A metal powder composition having enhanced thermal conductivity, reduced energy consumption, particle size less than 500 1000 nanometers and a coating in

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~~stoichiometric excess~~ having at least one function selected from the group consisting of composition stabilization, corrosion resistance dispersant, or combinations thereof, wherein said powder is further comprised of at least one fluid selected from the group consisting of phase change material, heat transfer fluid, swellable polymers, swellable polysaccharides, electrolyte, ionic surfactants, ionic liquids, supercritical liquids or combinations thereof.

50. (currently amended) A metal powder composition having ~~enhanced electrical and thermal conductivity, particle size less than 500~~ 25 nanometers and a coating ~~in stoichiometric excess~~ having at least one function selected from the group consisting of composition stabilization, corrosion resistance dispersant, or combinations thereof, wherein said powder is further comprised of at least one fluid selected from the group consisting of phase change material, conductive polymers, electrolyte, ionic surfactants, ionic liquids, supercritical liquids or combinations thereof.
51. (previously presented) The metal powder according to claim 31, wherein the metal powder is manufactured into high energy efficiency products including engine cooling, heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, thermal storage, heat pipes, fuel cells, battery systems, hot water and steam systems, and microprocessor cooling systems.
52. (previously presented) The metal powder according to claim 49, wherein the metal powder is manufactured into high energy efficiency products including engine cooling, heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, thermal storage, heat pipes, fuel cells, battery systems, hot water and steam systems, and microprocessor cooling systems.
53. (previously presented) The metal powder according to claim 50, wherein the metal powder is manufactured into high energy efficiency products including engine cooling, heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, thermal storage, heat pipes, fuel cells, battery systems, hot water and steam systems, and microprocessor cooling systems.